

Message Text

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62

ACTION INR-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-11

DRC-01 /041 W

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R 032245Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4195

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 4766

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, GT

SUBJECT: REQUESTED BIO INFORMATION ON MANUEL MENDEZ ESCOBAR
AND ROBERTO MAZARIEGOS GODOY

REF: STATE 192558

1. MANUEL MENDEZ ESCOBAR ASSUMED HIS PRESENT POSITION
AS HEAD OF BANK OF GUATEMALA SOON AFTER INAUGURATION
OF LAUGERUD ADMINISTRATION IN JULY. FROM 1970 TO 1974
HE SERVED AS MANAGER OF THE BANK.

2. MENDEZ WAS BORN AT PATZUN, CHIMALTENANGO DEPARTMENT
ON MAY 4, 1932. HE IS MARRIED. HE VISITED THE U.S. IN
SEPTEMBER, 1973 AS MEMBER GUATEMALA DELEGATION
TO LAST YEAR'S IMF-IBRD MEETINGS. WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED
MANAGER OF THE BANK IN 1970, MENDEZ WAS DESCRIBED BY
EMBOFFS AS "RESPECTED YOUNG ECONOMIST," AND THIS
ASSESSMENT HAS NOT CHANGED. HE IS ABLE, INTELLIGENT;
AND ARTICULATE CAREER CIVIL SERVANT, AND A MEMBER OF
UPPER MIDDLE CLASS. NO INFORMATION ON ENGLISH ABILITY.

3. ROBERTO MAZARIEGOS GODOY WAS BORN JUNE 4, 1932
AT AMATITLAN, GUATEMALA DEPARTMENT. HE CURRENTLY
HOLDS POST FORMERLY HELD BY MENDEZ, MANAGER OF BANK
OF GUATEMALA. HIS PREVIOUS POSITION WAS THAT OF
ASSISTANT MANAGER. POST CONSIDERS HIM TO BE
INTELLIGENT AND ABLE CAREER CIVIL SERVANT.

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4. MAZARIEGOS EARNED A DEGREE IN ECONOMICS FROM GUATEMALA'S SAN CARLOS UNIVERSITY IN 1964. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS THREE CHILDREN. HE LISTS WATER SPORTS AS HIS HOBBIES AND HAS A DIETARY RESTRICTION AGAINST FRIED FOOD. IN 1973 HE WAS NOMINATED FOR AN IVG, BUT AFTER REPEATED SCHEDULING PROBLEMS THE POST WITHDREW HIS NOMINATION IN MARCH, 1974. MAZARIEGOS HAS A FAIR KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH, BUT AT THE TIME OF IVG NOMINATION POST RECOMMENDED THAT HE BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN INTERPRETER. MELOY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, BANKERS, MANAGERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GUATEM04766
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740244-0286
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740980/aaaacpps.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 192558
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <28 JAN 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUESTED BIO INFORMATION ON MANUEL MENDEZ ESCOBAR AND ROBERTO MAZARIEGOS GODOY
TAGS: PINR, GT, (MENDEZ ESCOBAR, MANUEL), (MAZARIEGOS GODOY, ROBERTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005